

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

HEIDI SPECHT,

Plaintiff,

v.

NORTHWEST HELICOPTERS LLC ET AL,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 3:21-cv-05730-JHC

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the parties' Stipulated Protective Order, which the Court construes as a stipulated motion for a protective order. Dkt. # 21. The Court has considered the Motion and, for the reasons discussed below, DENIES it without prejudice.

"There is a strong presumption of public access to the court's files." LCR 5(g). The Court may issue a protective order "for good cause" under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c). The Court

may enter a proposed stipulated protective order as an order of the court if it adequately and specifically describes the justification for such an order, it is consistent with court rules, it does not purport to confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, *its protection from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles*, and it does not presumptively entitle the parties to file confidential information under seal.

1 LCR 26(c)(2) (emphasis added). The Court’s Model Stipulated Protective Order says, “The
2 parties must include a list of specific documents such as ‘company’s customer list’ or ‘plaintiff’s
3 medical records;’ do not list broad categories of documents such as ‘sensitive business
4 material.’” W.D. Wash. Model Stipulated Protective Order, [https://www.wawd.uscourts.
5 gov/sites/wawd/files/ModelStipulatedProtectiveOrder.pdf](https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/sites/wawd/files/ModelStipulatedProtectiveOrder.pdf).

6 The Stipulated Protective Order defines “confidential” material as “confidential personal
7 information, including, but not limited to, social security numbers, taxpayer identification
8 numbers, passport numbers, driver license numbers, medical or psychiatric information or
9 records, and financial/accounting information.” Dkt. # 21 at 2. While “social security numbers,
10 taxpayer identification numbers, passport numbers, [and] driver license numbers” are specific
11 categories of documents, “financial/accounting information” is broad and does not comply with
12 Local Civil Rule 26(c)(2). And the parties do not justify the category with argument.

13 The Court DENIES the Motion without prejudice. Dkt. # 21. The parties may file a
14 revised Stipulated Protective Order.

15 Dated this 23rd day of May, 2022.

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John H. Chun
18 United States District Judge
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